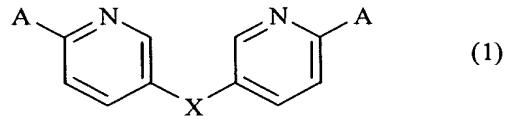


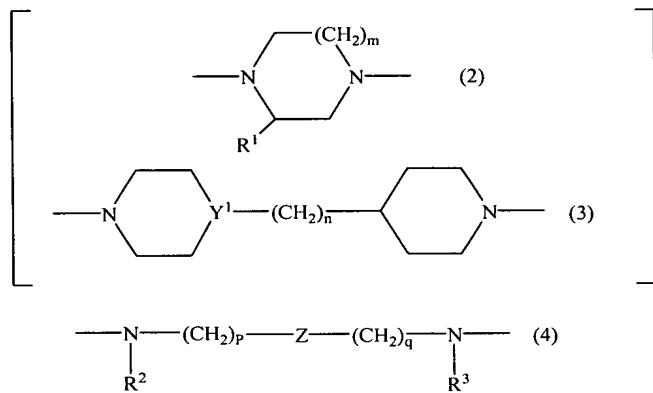
IN THE CLAIMS

The status of each claim is presented below.

1. (Currently Amended): A bis(2-aryl-5-pyridyl) compound having formula (1) or a salt thereof:



wherein A is a substituted or unsubstituted aromatic hydrocarbon group, and X is formula (4):



wherein, in formula (4), R² and R³ each is a hydrogen atom or a lower alkyl group, Z represents a single bond, a substituted methylene group, a substituted imino group, an oxygen atom or a cycloalkylene group, and p and q each is 0 or an integer of 1 to 6.

2. (Previously Presented) A bis(2-aryl-5-pyridyl) derivative or a salt thereof according to claim 1, wherein in the formula (1), A is a substituted or unsubstituted phenyl group.

3. Canceled.

4. (Previously Presented) The bis(2-aryl-5-pyridyl) compound or a salt thereof according to Claim 1, wherein said aromatic hydrocarbon substituent is substituted by 1 to 3 substituents selected from the group consisting of lower alkyl groups, lower alkoxy groups, halogeno(lower alkyl) groups, lower alkoxy(lower alkyl) groups, hydroxy(lower alkyl) groups, carboxyl group, (lower alkoxy)carbonyl groups, unsubstituted or (lower alkyl)- and/or (lower alkoxy)-substituted carbamoyl groups, lower alkanoyl groups, formyl group, lower alkanoyloxy groups, halogen atoms, hydroxyl group, cyano, (lower alkyl)thio groups, amino group, mono- or di-(lower alkyl)amino groups, (lower alkyl)sulfonylamino groups, pyrrolidinyl groups, and alkylenedioxy groups.

5. (Previously Presented) This bis(2-aryl-5-pyridyl) compound or a salt thereof according to Claim 4, wherein the lower alkyl moiety in the lower alkyl group containing groups is methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, isopropyl, n-butyl, isobutyl, sec-butyl, tert-butyl, pentyl, hexyl, cyclopropyl or cyclohexyl.

6. (Previously Presented) This bis(2-aryl-5-pyridyl) compound or a salt thereof according to Claim 1, wherein said aromatic hydrocarbon group (A) is phenyl or naphthyl.

7. (Currently Amended) This bis(2-aryl-5-pyridyl) compound or a salt thereof according to Claim 1 Claim 4, wherein said aromatic hydrocarbon group is substituted with 1 to 3 substituents and wherein said 1 to 3 substituents are selected from group consisting of methyl, methoxy, ethoxy, n-propoxy, isopropoxy, trifluoroethoxy, methoxyethoxy, hydroxyethoxy, hydroxy, cyano, methylthio, dimethylamino, pyrrolidinyl, carboxyl, ethoxycarbonyl, t-butoxycarbonyl, butyryloxy, N-methyl-N-methoxycarbomoyl, acetyl, and methylenedioxy.

8. (Currently Amended) The salt of the bis(2-aryl-5-pyridyl) compound according to Claim 1, which is N,N'-bis[2-(3,4,5-trimethoxyphenyl)-5-pyridyl]-N,N'-dimethylethylenediamine dimethanesulfonate, N,N'-bis[2-(4-hydroxy-3,5-dimethoxyphenyl)-5-pyridyl]-N,N'-dimethylethylenediamine dimethanesulfonate, ~~1,4-bis[2-(3,4,5-trimethoxyphenyl)-5-pyridyl]hexahydro-1,4-diazepine dimethanesulfonate~~, N,N'-bis[2-(3,4,5-trimethoxyphenyl)-5-pyridyl]-N,N'-dimethylethylenediamine dimethanesulfonate, N,N'-bis[2-(3,4,5-trimethoxyphenyl)-5-pyridyl]-N,N'-dimethyl-1,3-propanediamine dimethanesulfonate, N,N'-bis[2-(3,4,5-trimethoxyphenyl)-5-pyridyl]-N,N'-dimethyl-1,2,2-tetramethyl-1,3-propanediamine dimethanesulfonate, 2-hydroxy-N,N'-bis[2-(3,4,5-trimethoxyphenyl)-5-pyridyl]-N,N'-dimethyl-1,3-propanediamine, N,N'-bis[N-[2-(3,4,5-trimethoxyphenyl)-5-pyridyl]-N-methyl-2-aminoethyl]methylamine trihydrochloride, N,N'-bis[N-[2-(3,4,5-trimethoxyphenyl)-5-pyridyl]-N-methyl-3-aminopropyl]methylamine, bis[N-2-(3,4,5-trimethoxyphenyl)-5-pyridyl]-2-aminoethyl]ether dimethanesulfonate, ~~2-dimethylaminomethyl-1,4-bis[2-(3,4,5-trimethoxyphenyl)-5-pyridyl]piperazine trihydrochloride~~, N,N'-bis[2-(3,4,5-trimethoxyphenyl)-5-pyridyl]-N,N'-dimethyl-1,6-hexanediamine dimethanesulfonate, or N,N'-bis[N-[2-[3,5-dimethoxy-4-(2,2,2-trifluoroethoxy)phenyl]-5-pyridyl]-N-methyl-3-aminopropyl]methylamine trihydrochloride.

9. (Previously Presented): A pharmaceutical composition comprising, as an active ingredient, an effective amount of a bis(2-aryl-5-pyridyl) compound or a salt thereof according to Claim 1.

10. (Currently Amended): A method of treating, ~~arresting, alleviating, or reducing~~ allergic immune disease in a subject, comprising

administering the pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 9 to a subject.

11. (Amended): The method according to Claim 10, wherein said allergic immune disease is at least one member selected from the group consisting of asthma, atopic dermatitis, allergic rhinitis, inflammatory bowel disease, contact dermatitis and an allergic ophthalmopathy.

12. (Currently Amended): A method of inhibiting, arresting, alleviating, or reducing the production of IgE antibody in a subject comprising,
administering the bis(2-aryl-5-pyridyl) compound or a salt thereof according to Claim 1 to a subject.

13. (Previously Presented): A pharmaceutical composition, comprising: a bis(2-aryl-5-pyridyl) compound or a salt thereof according to Claim 1 and a pharmacologically acceptable carrier.

14. (Currently Amended): A method of treating ~~or alleviating~~ a subject suffering from an allergic immune disease, which comprises:
administering an effective amount of a bis(2-aryl-5-pyridyl) compound or a salt thereof according to Claim 1 to said subject.

15. (Previously Presented): The method according to Claim 14, wherein said allergic immune disease is at least one member selected from the group consisting of asthma, atopic dermatitis, allergic rhinitis, inflammatory bowel disease, contact dermatitis and an allergic ophthalmopathy.

16. (Currently Amended) A method of treating, ~~alleviating, arresting, or reducing~~ the symptoms of allergic immune disease in a subject, comprising administering an effective amount of a bis(2-aryl-5-pyridyl) compound or a salt thereof according to Claim 1 to said subject.

17. (Previously Presented): The method according to Claim 16, wherein said allergic immune disease is at least one member selected from the group consisting of asthma, atopic dermatitis, allergic rhinitis, inflammatory bowel disease, contact dermatitis and an allergic ophthalmopathy.

18. (Currently Amended) A method of treating, ~~alleviating, arresting, or reducing~~ the symptoms of allergic immune disease in a subject, comprising administering the pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 9 to said subject.

19. (Previously Presented): The method according to Claim 18, wherein said allergic immune disease is at least one member selected from the group consisting of asthma, atopic dermatitis, allergic rhinitis, inflammatory bowel disease, contact dermatitis and an allergic ophthalmopathy.

20 (Currently Amended) A method of treating, ~~alleviating, arresting, or reducing~~ the symptoms of allergic immune disease in a subject, comprising administering the pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 13 to said subject.

SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENTS

The names of the compounds described in Examples 57 and 58 have been corrected.

Claim 1 has been amended to delete formulas (2) and (3). Claim 7 has been amended for clarity. Two species have been deleted from Claim 8. The method claims have been amended to recite “treating.”

No new matter is believed to have been added to the application by the amendments submitted above.